

Based on the observation that the fuel pressure difference between the filter inlet and outlet is a quantity related, to a sufficiently reliable and significant extent, to the degree of clogging of the filter, said devices activate indicator means when a limiting value of said pressure difference 5 is exceeded.

Said devices, e.g. disclosed in GB-A-1057855, generally comprise a cylindrical chamber and a piston slideable in its interior to divide it into two half-chambers, of which one communicates with the fuel inlet and the other with the fuel outlet. Said chamber, which can be provided directly 10 within the filter casing or within a separate container, also houses a spring means acting on the piston against the action of the pressure difference, and an electromechanical or electromagnetic switch providing a signal as the result of a movement of said piston against the action of the spring.

The described device is mounted in suitable seats provided in the filter 15 casing and fixed thereto by known means by way of suitable seal gaskets. However this configuration presents certain drawbacks: firstly, problems in sealing the filter against the external environment inevitably arise at the fixing between the seat and the device; in addition, the provision of said seats considerably complicates construction, while the presence of the 20 gaskets makes it more difficult to mount and replace the device. Finally, these factors also produce a cost increase that cannot be ignored.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

The object of the present invention is to overcome the stated drawbacks 25 within the context of a simple, rational and low-cost solution.
The invention attains said object by virtue of the characteristics indicated